

A Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Saucon Valley School District was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 via an online meeting. Present were Directors Edward Andres, Susan Baxter, Cedric Dettmar, Bryan Eichfeld, Michael Karabin, Tracy Magnotta, Dr. Shamim Pakzad, Sandra Miller and Shawn Welch. Also present were Dr. Craig B. Butler, Superintendent; David Bonenberger, Board Secretary and Mark Fitzgerald, District Solicitor

- I. **Call to the Order** at 7:05 pm – *Dr. Shamim Pakzad, President, presiding*
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Recording of Attendance** – *David Bonenberger, Secretary*
8-present, 1-absent (Eichfeld)
- IV. **Motion to Approve Agenda** – Director Miller, seconded by Director Dettmar moved to approve the Agenda. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no 1-absent (Eichfeld)
- V. **Announcement of Executive Session** – September 8, 2020
- VI. **Approval of Minutes** – Director Miller, seconded by Director Baxter move to approve the minutes of August 25, 2020. Vote: 8-yes, 0-no, 1-absent (Eichfeld)
- VII. **Recognition** – None
- VIII. **Presentation** –None
- IX. **Superintendent's Report** – *Dr. Craig Butler, Superintendent*
Dr. Butler gave an update on questions that were asked at the last meeting.

Director Eichfeld arrived at 7:20

- X. **Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors – Agenda Items Only**
 - K. Roberts – Commented that she is concerned about the PE recommendation
 - M. Donahue – Thankful the students were able to start but frustrated with the progress of fall sports.
 - D. Mahaffey – Commented on the fall sports season
 - B. Bubba – Commented on fall sports
 - M. Kane – Asked that fall sports continue.
 - C. Cassellia – Feels we need to keep gym as a requirement and wants fall sports to continue.
 - L. Christogianni – Commented on fall sports asking that they proceed with the season.
- XI. **Presentation of Bills** – *David Bonenberger*
 - A. General Expenditures – \$1,465,537.09
 - B. Cafeteria Expenditures – \$6,654.29
 - C. Health Benefits – None
 - D. Capital Projects – None

1. Approve the above presentation of bills.

Director Welch, seconded by Director Miller moved to approve the Presentation of the Bills. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

XII. Treasurer's Report – Cedric Dettmar/David Bonenberger

- A. Cash Investment and Bond Activity – None
- B. Condensed Board Summary Report – None
- C. Capital Project Finance Report – None
- D. Budget Transfers – None
- E. Middle School Activity Report – July 31, 2020
- F. High School Activity Report – July 31, 2020

1. Approve the above Treasurer's Report.

Director Dettmar, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve the Presentation of the Bills. Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

A. Education

1. Approve modifications to the high school program of studies – Ninth Grade Health and Wellness Course.

Director Magnotta, seconded by Director Welch moved to approve Education Item #1.

Director Eichfeld likes the idea of organized sports but to open up for anything he will vote no.

Director Magnotta asked how this affects students that already planned their schedules around this.

Director Pakzad asked if we can say school sponsored sports or the equivalent.

Director Eichfeld, seconded by Director Welch moved to table this item. Vote: 4-yes (Eichfeld, Welch, Dettmar, Miller), 5-no. Motion failed.

Director Magnotta, seconded by Director Andres amend the original motion with the following addition: "As an example, school sponsored athletic activities qualify as such physical activities that would meet the standard".

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

Amended original motion Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

2. Approve the following dates for 2020-21 fall athletic competitions:.
(See NOTE below)

Volleyball:

1st Scrimmage – September 11th

1st Competition – September 18th

Field Hockey:

1st Scrimmage – September 11th

1st Competition – September 18th

Soccer:

1st Scrimmage – September 11th

1st Competition – September 18th

Football:

Non Contact (Bags and Sleds only) – August 24th–September 8th

Internal Contact – September 9th -17th

1st Scrimmage – September 11th

1st Competition – September 25th

Cheerleading:

Practice until Football games begin

NOTE:

1. *In the event the District maintains and/or modifies its blended model of instructional delivery, athletics at the middle and high school level may continue subject to any limitations ordered by the state or the District's athletic leagues. Cancellation or modification of other co-curricular/ extracurricular activities will be on a case by case basis and subject to the discretion of the Administration.*
2. *In the event the District transitions to a total online/virtual instructional model, all athletics at the middle and high school level may be canceled or postponed, subject to further guidance from the Administration and whether rescheduling such programs is feasible and/or permitted. Cancellation or modification of other co-curricular/extracurricular activities will be on a case by case basis and subject to the discretion of the Administration.*

Director Miller, seconded by Director Welch moved to approve Education Item #2.

Director Baxter asked about bussing.

Director Dettmar is concerned with saying it is an athletic decision, it's not and it can come back to the school and potentially shut the school and sports down.

Director Eichfeld is concerned, can the athletes go virtual for 14 days after the last event.

Director Miller feels that our protocols are strong and that we should trust the protocols.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

B. Personnel

1. Accept the resignation of Jose Figueroa, paraprofessional, effective August 26, 2020.
2. Approve the following Family Medical Leaves:
 - Employee #212 – October 30, 2020 through January 29, 2020
 - Michelle Horvath – August 27, 2020 through November 19, 2020
 - Robert Svitilla – September 8, 2020 through September 28, 2020; then intermittent FMLA for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.
3. Approve the following Family First Coronavirus Response Act leave:
 - Amanda Gercie – September 14, 2020 through December 8, 2020
4. Approve the following long term substitutes:
 - Jade Gery, kindergarten long term substitute, beginning August 19, 2020 and continue for the first semester of the 2020-21 school year. Base salary is \$54,425 (B, Step 2), which will be prorated for the number of days worked. Ms. Gery was hired at B, Step 1 at last meeting.
 - Christina Harrison, high school social studies long term substitute, beginning August 19, 2020 and continue until November 19, 2020. Base salary is \$53,182 (B, Step 1), which will be prorated for the number of days worked. Ms. Harrison is replacing Michelle Horvath, who is on a FMLA leave during this time.

Melissa Miller, high school English long term substitute, beginning August 24, 2020 and ending approximately on November 13, 2020. Base salary is \$53,182 (B, Step 1), which will be prorated for the number of days worked. Ms. Miller is replacing Matthew Shaw, who is on a FFCRA leave during this time.

Russell Lande, first grade long term substitute, beginning September 14, 2020 and ending approximately on December 8, 2020. Base salary is \$53,182 (B, Step 1), which will be prorated for the number of days worked. Mr. Lande is replacing Amanda Gercie, who is on a FFCRA leave during this time.

Jeanne Reilly, middle school guidance counselor long term substitute, beginning September 21, 2020 and continue through the first semester. Base salary is \$53,182 (B, Step 1), which will be prorated for the number of days worked. Ms. Reilly is replacing Thomas Baldo, who is on a first semester health sabbatical leave during this time.

5. Approve the following 2020-21 homebound instructors. Salary is \$40 per hour.

Theresa Andreucci	Debra Lacey
Brianne Barona	Ryan McCann
Scott Guidos	Chad Shirk
Kaitlyn Dennington	Sarah Thatcher
Amy Kozel	

6. Approve the following mentors for the 2020-2021 school year. Salary for mentor is per the current professional agreement which will be prorated.

<u>Mentor</u>	<u>Inductee</u>
Jennifer Davison	Russell Lande (1 st Grade)
Melissa Maynard	Melissa Miller (HS English)

7. Approve the following individuals as part time instructional paraprofessionals at an hourly rate of \$19.19 for no more than 28 hours per week, benefits per the current Educational Support Staff Compensation Plan, effective upon completion of employment paperwork.

Leslie Kuka
Susan Lutz

8. Approve the following changes 2020-21 fall coaches. (See NOTE below)

Girls Volleyball:

Cristal Fernandez - Assistant Coach - \$2985 (was hired as volunteer)
Kennedy Wilson - Assistant Coach – Volunteer (was hired as paid position)

NOTE: The District's obligation to pay the coaches and supplemental positions above is subject to the District's ability to hold and/or participate in the activity in light of the COVID-19 Crisis. In the event (1) the District is closed or providing modified services, (2) unable to hold the activity as the result of direction from outside agencies such as PDE, PIAA, the CDC, the Governor's Office, District XI, etc., or (3) the Administration

determines not to hold such activities for the safety of the students and community, the District shall have no obligation to pay athletic and non-athletic contracts appointed herein. In the event the fall sports and/or activities are reduced, the athletic and non-athletic contracts approved above shall be paid a pro-rated amount of the stipend based on the percentage of the season/activity that was held and students participated. The decision to cancel and/or discontinue the activities or sports season shall be at the exclusive discretion of the Administration based, in part, on guidance from the Center for Disease Control, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, other health agencies, and student participation in such activities.

Director Welch, seconded by director Miller moved to approve Personnel Items #1 – 8.
Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

C. Facilities

1. Approve the 2020-2021 bus routes and bus drivers subject to change based on enrollment.

Directors Eichfeld, seconded by Director Karabin moved to approve Facilities Item #1.
Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

D. Finance

A. Finance Committee Summary – August 26, 2020

1. Authorize Public Finance Management to proceed with competitive RFP process to refinance series B of 2014 Bond.

Directors Dettmar, seconded by Director Eichfeld moved to approve Finance Item #1.
Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

E. Community Outreach – SV Partnership – Michael Karabin and Shawn Welch

F. Bethlehem Area Vo-Tech School – Cedric Dettmar and Bryan Eichfeld

G. Colonial Intermediate Unit – Sandra Miller

H. PSBA – Sandra Miller

1. Approve slate of officers per board ballots.

Director Eichfeld, seconded by Director Karabin moved to approve PSBA #1.
Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

I. Hellertown/Lower Saucon Chamber of Commerce – Michael Karabin

J. Saucon Valley Foundation for Educational Innovation – Tracy Magnotta

K. Northampton Community College – Susan Baxter

Director Baxter commented that the college's enrollment in down ten percent.

L. New Business

1. Approve the Saucon Valley Partnership Comprehensive Plan.

Director Karabin, seconded by Director Welch moved to approve the Saucon Valley Partnership Comprehensive Plan.

Director Eichfeld will be resigning from the Finance Committee. Director Welch and Director Miller are interested in serving on that committee.

M. Old Business

Director Miller brought up cyber school statistics and the need to do something to get these students back.

Director Andres questioned the governors order update of 25 people for indoor gatherings and 250 for outdoor gatherings if we updated our plan.

XIII. Citizens' Inquiries and Comments –

D. Ellis – Commented on the PE credit issue.

C. Cassellia – Commented on Chad Miller and the High School musical, asked why Dr. Butler removed Chad Miller from the position of musical Director

N. Spirk – Commented on the sub situation and students missing encore classes due to lack of substitutes.

T. Scherer – Concerned about teachers teaching in areas they are not certified in.

K. Boushell – Commented on lack of teacher subs, class size, needing more tech support, lack of social distancing, students with symptoms.

XIV. Announcements

Future Meetings ~

September 22, 2020 – 7 pm –Business Meeting – TBD

October 13, 2020 – 7 pm –Business Meeting – TBD

October 27, 2020 – 7 pm –Business Meeting – TBD

XV. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Director Karabin, seconded by Director Miller moved to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 9-yes, 0-no

9:52 pm

ATTEST: _____

Secretary

President